

5

If the multimedia device **104** transmits alternatively audio data to the computer system, the audio data could also be processed in a similar manner. That is, the audio data could be played over a speaker attached to the computer system **100**, or alternatively posted on the Internet as described above with regard to the video data.

Alternative Embodiments

As further shown in FIG. 1 and in FIG. 3, the hot-docking interface **102** of the present invention may alternatively be provided within an indentation **103** on the computer system to hold the multimedia device **104** more securely. Moreover, the hot-docking interface **102** of the present invention could be provided in a cradle on the surface of the computer system, to hold the multimedia device even more firmly.

In addition, to protect the pins of the hot-docking interface, the pin could alternatively be retractable. For example, the weight of setting down the multimedia device **104** on the surface of the computer system **100** could cause the pins to rise and make contact with the contact pads of the multimedia device **104**.

In the foregoing specification the invention has been described with reference to specific exemplary embodiments thereof. It will, however, be evident that various modifications and changes may be made thereto without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the invention. The specification and drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than restrictive sense.

What is claimed is:

1. A first apparatus comprising:

a memory device; and

a hot docking interface, coupled to said memory device, said hot docking interface automatically transmits or receives digital image data with a digital image recording device in response to said recording device being in contact with said hot docking interface, said digital image data transmitted via a data transfer protocol of IEEE 1394 standard, wherein said hot docking interface of said first apparatus provides power to said recording device for said recording device to transmit or receive digital image data, wherein the first apparatus includes a cradle to receive said digital image recording device, wherein said hot docking interface is within said cradle.

2. The first apparatus of claim 1, wherein said hot docking interface of said first apparatus provides power to said second apparatus to recharge a battery in said second device.

3. The first apparatus of claim 2, wherein said first apparatus is a computer system and said digital image recording device is a multimedia device.

4. The first apparatus of claim 3, wherein said digital image recording device is a digital camera.

5. The first apparatus of claim 3, wherein said digital image recording device is a digital video recorder.

6. The first apparatus of claim 3, wherein said hot docking interface includes at least one pressure pin corresponding to a contact pad on a hot docking interface on said digital image recording device.

7. The first apparatus of claim 3, wherein the first apparatus includes a status indicator that identifies a status of transferring the multimedia data.

8. The first apparatus of claim 3, wherein the digital image recording device includes a status indicator that identifies a status of transferring the multimedia data.

9. The first apparatus of claim 3, wherein the first apparatus includes an indentation to receive said digital image

6

recording device, wherein said hot docking interface is within said indentation.

10. The first apparatus of claim 6, wherein said pressure pin of said first apparatus is retractable.

11. A first apparatus comprising:

a memory device; and

a hot docking means, coupled to said memory device, for automatically transmitting or receiving digital image data with a digital image recording device in response to said image recording device being in contact with said hot docking interface, said digital image data transmitted via a data transfer protocol of IEEE 1394 standard, wherein said hot docking interface of said first apparatus provides power to said recording device for said recording device to transmit or receive multimedia data, wherein the first apparatus includes a cradle to receive said recording device, wherein said hot docking means is within said cradle.

12. The first apparatus of claim 11, wherein said hot docking interface of said first apparatus provides power to said image recording device to recharge a battery in said image recording device.

13. The first apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first apparatus is a computer system and said second apparatus is a multimedia device.

14. The first apparatus of claim 13, wherein said recording device is a digital camera.

15. The first apparatus of claim 13, wherein said recording device is a digital video recorder.

16. The first apparatus of claim 13, wherein said hot docking means includes at least one pressure pin corresponding to a contact pad on a hot docking means on said recording device.

17. The first apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first apparatus includes a status indicator that identifies a status of transferring the digital image data.

18. The first apparatus of claim 13, wherein the recording device includes a status indicator that identifies a status of transferring the digital image data.

19. The first apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first apparatus includes an indentation to receive said recording device, wherein said hot docking means is within said indentation.

20. The first apparatus of claim 16, wherein said pressure pin of the hot docking means on said first apparatus is retractable.

21. A method for transmitting multimedia data comprising the steps of:

placing a first hot docking interface, of a first apparatus, in contact with a second hot docking interface, of a second apparatus;

said first hot docking interface detecting said second hot docking interface in contact with said first hot docking interface; and

in response to said first hot docking interface detecting said second hot docking interface in contact with said first hot docking interface, said first hot docking interface automatically begins transmitting or receiving multimedia data with said second apparatus, wherein said hot docking interface of said first apparatus provides power to said second apparatus for said second apparatus to transmit or receive multimedia data, wherein the first apparatus includes a cradle to receive said second apparatus, wherein said first hot docking interface is within said cradle.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said recording device is a digital camera.